

Commission on Systemic Interoperability: Herbert Pardes, M.D. of New York.

PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 357, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 357) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Dorothy Height.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 357) was agreed to.

CONGRATULATING FOCUS: HOPE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 92 submitted earlier today by Senator LEVIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 92) congratulating and saluting Focus: HOPE on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today with great pleasure to speak in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of Focus: HOPE and to support this concurrent resolution commemorating its many achievements. Focus: HOPE has served as an invaluable, multifaceted resource for the people of Detroit and Michigan and is a model of success for the entire Nation. From its inception, Focus: HOPE has been committed to taking "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty, and injustice." For three and a half decades, Focus: HOPE has worked toward that goal.

In 1968, Father William T. Cunningham, a Roman Catholic priest, and Eleanor Josaitis, a housewife,

joined to form Focus: HOPE as a positive reaction to the devastating Detroit riots the previous year. While having few material resources at their disposal, Father Cunningham and Ms. Josaitis possessed a singular and indefatigable desire to help residents of Detroit take control of their lives. Their faith has been matched by a love for all of humanity, irrespective of religion or race. That love has helped Focus: HOPE flourish as it seeks to assist many in metro-Detroit.

Focus: HOPE has been involved with myriad activities that address both the immediate and long-term needs of our people. In the 1970s, Focus: HOPE began several innovative programs to provide nutritious food to young children, their mothers and senior citizens. Through its USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program, the largest of its kind, monthly supplemental food is provided to 43,000 low-income pregnant and postpartum mothers, infants, preschool children and seniors throughout Southeast Michigan. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program can now be found in 32 States.

While caring for the basic needs of individuals, Focus: HOPE also seeks to lift the dreams and spirits of all who study, work at, or visit its 40-acre Detroit campus. Father Cunningham was a firm believer in the ability of education and technology to inspire people and bring out the best in them. By helping people to harness their dreams and imagine what is possible, he sought to develop a series of training and educational programs that challenged students to fulfill their dreams while learning marketable career skills.

To achieve this end, Focus: HOPE developed a four-part educational and training system that requires that students meet rigorous competency standards before they are able to proceed to the next academic program. The first two parts, fast track and the Machinist Training Institute, opened in the 1980s during a time of radical evolution for Focus: HOPE. Fast track, is a computer assisted course which improves the reading and math skills of high school graduates or GED holders to prepare them for advanced study in the Machinist Training Institute where individuals prepare for careers in advanced machining and precision manufacturing. Fast track ensures that all those who enter the MTI program have the skills needed to succeed in this program and industry. The MTI uses a unique combination of classroom instruction and hands-on manufacturing experience producing high quality products in industry.

By maintaining clear and rigorous standards, MTI is able to train individuals that industry wants to hire. Since its foundation, nearly 2,500 graduates have learned high-demand skills and gain access to the financial mainstream. One indication of the success of this program is that industry often seeks to hire the students ever before they have completed their training.

In 1993, Focus: HOPE expanded its educational programs by adding a third education and training program—the Center for Advanced Technologies, CAT. At the center, "candidates," as all students are called at Focus: HOPE, are able to continue their education by working toward an associate's or bachelor's degree in manufacturing engineering. Through a unique partnership with several universities, CAT students are awarded their degrees in a rigorous process that combines hands-on manufacturing experience and academic instruction within a leading edge technology environment while working and studying at Focus: HOPE. These candidates produce the highest quality and precision parts for the auto industry—a very demanding challenge. This innovative Focus: HOPE program has been cited as enrolling the largest number of African Americans studying manufacturing engineering in the Nation.

In 1999, Focus: HOPE was able to further diversify its training resources through the establishment of the Information Technologies Center, which provides industry-certified training in network administration, network installation, and desktop server administration enabling students to gain employment in the growing Information Technology sector of our economy.

These innovative and successful programs have caused Focus: HOPE to receive considerable national attention for its efforts. As a result of its many successes, Focus: HOPE has been visited by many national, State and local officials who wanted to examine this remarkable place in person. Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton have visited Focus: HOPE as well as Energy Secretary Spence Abraham, Army Secretary Thomas White, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, the Honorable Colin Powell when he served as Joint Chiefs of Staff, and many others. These quests quickly learned as I have on many visits there, that the achievements of Focus: HOPE can hardly be described in just a few minutes or digested in even several visits.

Focus: HOPE has provided practical and compassionate assistance to people of all ages, from young children who receive quality child care at their Center for Children, to young adults who receive vital training through hands-on manufacturing projects, seniors who are fed by the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as well as those who are still young at heart who continue to persevere in the never-ending fight against racism, poverty, and injustice.

I have been privileged to witness and support Focus: HOPE's extraordinary achievements throughout the years. Like thousands of others, I have also been inspired by its positive energy and tireless commitment to providing opportunity for all people. For 35 years, Focus: HOPE has repeatedly amazed me with its spirit, grace, and vision.

Although Focus: HOPE lost a great mentor in 1997 with the passing of Father William Cunningham, Eleanor Josaitis continues to inspire and lead Focus: HOPE as its co-founder and chief executive officer. Today, I am pleased to offer my congratulations to Ms. Josaitis and her colleagues on the 35th anniversary of Focus: HOPE. I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives will join Senator STABENOW and me in commemorating this invaluable resource by supporting the passage of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 92

Whereas Focus: HOPE began as a civil and human rights organization in 1968 in the wake of the devastating Detroit riots, and was co-founded by the late Father William T. Cunningham, a Roman Catholic priest, and Eleanor M. Josaitis, a suburban housewife, who were inspired to establish Focus: HOPE by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.;

Whereas Focus: HOPE is committed to bringing together people of all races, faiths, and economic backgrounds to overcome injustice and build racial harmony, and it has grown to one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Michigan.

Whereas the Focus: HOPE mission statement states: "Recognizing the dignity and beauty of every person, we pledge intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty and injustice. And to build a metropolitan community where all people may live in freedom, harmony, trust and affection. Black and white, yellow, brown and red from Detroit and its suburbs of every economic status, national origin and religious persuasion we join in this covenant.";

Whereas one of Focus: HOPE's early efforts was to support African American and female employees in a seminal class action suit against AAA, resulting in one of the finest affirmative action commitments made by any corporation up to that time;

Whereas Focus: HOPE helped to conceive of and develop the Department of Agriculture's Commodity Supplemental Food Program which has been replicated in 32 states, and through this program Focus: HOPE helps to feed 43,000 people per month throughout Southeast Michigan;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has revitalized several city blocks in central Detroit by redeveloping obsolete industrial buildings, beautifying and landscaping Oakman Boulevard, creating pocket parks, and rehabilitating homes in the surrounding areas;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's Machinist Training Institute has been training individuals from Detroit and beyond for careers in advanced manufacturing and precision machining since 1981, and has sent forth nearly 2,500 certified graduates, providing an opportunity for primarily under-represented minority youth, women, and others to gain access to

the financial mainstream and learn in-demand skills;

Whereas Focus: HOPE, with assistance from Michigan, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other generous private and public partners, has within the last two years invested over \$10 million to complete the renovation of the industrial building housing its Machinist Training Institute;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has recognized that manufacturing and information technologies are key to the economic growth and security of Michigan and the United States, and is committed to designing programs that would contribute to the participation of under-represented urban individuals in these critical sectors;

Whereas, in 1982, Focus: HOPE began a for-profit subsidiary that was initiated for community economic development purposes and is now designated with Federal HUBZone status;

Whereas Focus: HOPE created two pioneering programs—FAST TRACK and First Step—designed to help individuals improve their reading and math competencies by a minimum of two grade levels in 4-7 weeks;

Whereas these programs have graduated over 7,000 individuals since their inception, a new offsite training facility in Detroit's Empowerment Zone in southwest Detroit has been established to reach out to individuals in other parts of the city, and the success of the programs has inspired Michigan (in its State-wide FAST BREAK program) and other States to replicate the efforts of Focus: HOPE;

Whereas, in 1987, Focus: HOPE reclaimed and renovated an abandoned building and opened it as a Center for Children, which has now served over 5,000 children of colleagues, students, and neighbors with quality child care, including latchkey, early childhood education, and other educational services;

Whereas Focus: HOPE, through an unprecedented co-operative agreement between the Departments of Defense, Commerce, Education, and Labor, established a National demonstration project—the Center for Advanced Technologies—in which candidates earn associates and bachelors degrees in either manufacturing engineering or technology, and engage in hands-on manufacturing with-in-real world conditions, producing parts for DaimlerChrysler, Detroit Diesel, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, the Department of Defense, and others;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has caused over \$22 million to be invested in renovating a previously obsolete building to house the Center for Advanced Technologies, transforming the building into a model facility for 21st century advanced manufacturing, education, and research;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has made outstanding contributions toward increasing diversity within the traditional homogeneous science, math, engineering, and technology fields, and 95 percent of currently enrolled degree candidates are African American, representing perhaps the United States' largest producer of bachelor-degreed minority graduates in manufacturing engineering;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's unique research and development partnership with the Department of Defense has resulted in a nationally recognized demonstration project, the Mobile Parts Hospital, whose Rapid Manufacturing System has recently been deployed to Kuwait in support of the Armed Forces' current operations in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas Focus: HOPE began a community arts program in 1995, presenting multicultural arts programming and gallery exhibitions designed to educate and encourage area residents, while fostering integration in a

culturally diverse metropolitan community, and over 43,000 people have viewed sponsored exhibits or participated in this program;

Whereas Focus: HOPE established an Information Technologies Center in 1999, providing Detroit students with industry-certified training programs in network administration, network installation, and desktop and server administration, and has graduated nearly 475 students to date, and has initiated, in collaboration with industry and academia, the design of a new bachelors degree program to educate information management systems engineers;

Whereas Focus: HOPE's initiatives and programs have been nationally recognized for excellence and leadership by such organizations as the Government Accounting Office, the Department of Labor, the International Standards Organization, the National Science Foundation, the Cisco Networking Academy Program, Fortune Magazine, Forbes Magazine, the Aspen Institute, and many others, and former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton have visited Focus: HOPE's campus;

Whereas Focus: HOPE is currently led by Eleanor M. Josaitis, its co-founder and chief executive officer, and she has received honorary degrees from 11 outstanding universities and colleges, was named one of the 100 Most Influential Women in 2002 by Crain's Detroit Business, has been inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, has received the Detroit NAACP Presidential Award, the Arab American Institute Foundation's Kahlil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award, as well as many other awards;

Whereas through the generous partnerships and support of individuals from all walks of life, Federal, State, and local government, and foundations and corporations across the United States, the vision of Focus: HOPE will continue to grow and inspire;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has been blessed with an active board of directors and advisory board from the senior most levels of corporate and public America, and has benefited from an annual average of 25,000 volunteers and countless colleagues;

Whereas Focus: HOPE has been a tremendous force for good in the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States for the past 35 years;

Whereas Focus: HOPE continues to strive to eliminate racism, poverty, and injustice through the use of passion, persistence, and partnerships, and continues to seek improvement in its quality of service and program operations; and

Whereas Focus: HOPE and its colleagues will continue to identify ways in which it can lead Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States into the future with creative urban leadership initiatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates and salutes Focus: HOPE for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Focus: HOPE and Ms. Eleanor M. Josaitis for appropriate display.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3783

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.